

Decision of the Management Board 11/2017/MB

**On CEPOL RESEARCH GRANT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING –
SETTING THE AGENDA**

Adopted by the Management Board

on 10 May 2017

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD,

Having regard to the Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015), and in particular Article 5 (*Research relevant for training*) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Art. 5 of the Regulation CEPOL shall contribute to and encourage the development of research relevant for training activities within the scope of its objectives;
- (2) Developing and upgrading learning tools and methodologies in order to strengthen the skills of law enforcement officials is stipulated as an objective for CEPOL (Art. 3 (2)),
- (3) Developing training activities and learning products, is emphasized as one element of CEPOL's objectives and tasks, alongside implementation and coordination (Art. 3 (1), Art. 4 (2));
- (4) The CEPOL European Research and Science Conference 2016 on "Global trends in law enforcement education and training" has demonstrated that there is a real need and demand on the operational leadership side for the further scientific exploration of matters relating to law enforcement education and training, while academics and scientists have something to offer;
- (5) CEPOL has a vested interest to include new scientific knowledge not only into the development and implementation of training activities, but also into the strategic development and programming of the organisation itself – and results will be shared with the agency's network of stakeholders;
- (6) The agency is well positioned for building links between organisational demands, scientific competence and new technical as well andragogical developments;
- (7) The Management Board endorsed the public offer of a research grant for 2018 (objective 2.C in the Draft Single Programming Document 2018-2020 – 07/2016/MB);

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

- (1) The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training sets up a grant scheme for the conduct of research projects relevant for training of law enforcement officials. The CEPOL Executive Director is tasked with the implementation of the scheme.

- (2) The research agenda of CEPOL is focussed on exploring - by deploying proper scientific methods - topics, issues, or developments which are of deemed of importance for the improvement of training and education of law enforcement officials from a European perspective in search of better cooperation and compatibility of efforts.
- (3) The research agenda and proposed topics for the initial start of the CEPOL research grant scheme are described and listed in Annex I.

Article 2

This Decision shall take effect on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Malta, 10 May 2017

For the Management Board

<Signature on file>

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Mrs Frederike Everts MPA
Chair of the Management Board

ANNEX I

RESEARCH AGENDA

Following the ambition that CEPOL aims to become a driver of change in the law enforcement training field in Europe and invests efforts to systematically include scientific knowledge into its training activities, the new legal mandate of the agency allows for a more proactive approach towards the encouragement of creating new scientific knowledge relevant for law enforcement training and education.

CEPOL has been committed towards and engaged in the training of police officers and other law enforcement officials in a cross-member state, European perspective for more than 15 years. Hundreds of activities have been organised and thousands of individuals have taken part in training activities since its beginnings – by this establishing an unique learning and teaching environment on the European level, with certain impact not just on the individual learners, but also their sending organisations as well. As for all social habitats, it comes with its own universe of social experience, which for the purpose of further development, modernisation and improvement can take advantage of systematically reflecting on its emergence and wider environment. The production of scientific knowledge starts with raising reasonable questions that can be examined, explored and possibly be answered by the application of scientific research methods.

CEPOL as an organisation focussed on the training and education of law enforcement officers in Europe has matured to the point where it makes good sense to ask research questions which are generated from both its practical experience as well as from its specific institutional position.

Launching its own institutional research agenda is justified not just from the angle of the agency's further improvement, but also in good view of the interest of its clients and stakeholders. The agenda of research will be centred on the agency's position and specific tasks in the European landscape of law enforcement training and education and will look in particular at methods, methodologies, technologies of learning and teaching and their effect on the learners, as well as on the particular aspects of cross-border and cross-organisational cooperation of law enforcement officials.

For a modest start, the year 2018 will be the first, where a specific research topic will be commissioned in a grant procedure. The following are three feasible topics to start off the CEPOL Grant for Training and Education Research:

Proposed Research Topics for 2018

Topic A

From police to law enforcement: best path for an extended training outreach

Following the recent Council Decision, the legal mandate of CEPOL has changed and the target groups for its training activities have been enlarged. While the agency has become an integral part of the landscape of higher police education in Europe and can claim to be quite familiar with the institutional network for training and education of police officers, both the training systems and learning cultures of customs or the judiciary are relatively unfamiliar territory. Still, the agency needs to adapt its offering to diverse learning styles and needs, which come with the professional culture.

Research assignment:

The research project will examine the question what factors, elements and experiences CEPOL has to take into account in planning and implementation of its training activities when they are meant to be attractive and reaching out to the needs of the various law enforcement “tribes”.

Expected outcome:

The project will outline and describe distinguishable learning cultures in the European law enforcement landscape, highlighting their differences and convergences and will provide recommendations how the agency can better prepare itself for this challenge.

Topic B

Identifying the evidence-base for an optimal blended-learning approach in law enforcement training and education

CEPOL has been using a blended learning approach by combining residential and online-learning elements for many years. While there is a significant pool of experience how the various elements can be combined, there has been no systematic examination

about the lessons learned or about the dos and don'ts. The fast progress in the area of learning technologies in recent years also triggers reflection about new opportunities and chances for innovation.

Research assignment:

The research project will examine scientific evidence about good and successful balance of combining residential and e-Learning elements in general and in the area of law enforcement in particular.

Expected outcome:

The project will provide recommendations about the optimal balance of residential and online-learning elements in the context of CEPOL's training portfolio.

Topic C

Preparing for Civilian Crisis Missions: What training support is needed on the ground?

CEPOL's training, education and knowledge portfolio caters to various distinct target groups, civilian crisis missions being one of them. Although specific activities in view of preparation of such missions has been organised by the agency in the past, there has not been an effort yet to align the various elements of the training portfolio precisely with the needs on the ground or in the field.

Research assignment:

This research project is about eliciting by empirical means, if the current training offer is in line with the needs and demands of those being sent to this missions or if new and innovative methods and tools would improve the preparatory efforts.

Expected outcome:

The project will provide the agency with empirical evidence for adjusting the training activities for the preparation of Civilian Crisis Missions.

Outline of the procedure for awarding the CEPOL RESEARCH GRANT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

-For information-

Title I - General Principles

I. Introduction

Article 3(4) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the European Union Agency for Law enforcement Training (CEPOL) and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2005/681/JHA¹, reflects recital 17 of the said Regulation according to which CEPOL should be able to award grants to the training and research institutes of Member States for the implementation of CEPOL's courses, seminars and conferences. Such grants should contribute to fostering cooperation between Member State training institutes within the network and to promoting the mutual recognition of law enforcement.

In line with the Decision of the Management Board 07/2016//MB² the Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), invites applications for a research grant in reference to the topic laid out in Annex li.

The call for the grant applications (hereinafter referred to as "the Call") is procedurally governed by:

- Part 1, Title 6 of Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 1929/2015 of

¹ OJ L319, 4.12.2015, p.1.

² Decision 07/2016/MB – Draft Single Programming Document 2018-2020

the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 2015 (hereinafter 'EU Financial Regulation');

- Part 1, Title 6 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, as amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2015/2462 of 30 October 2015.

The call will be based on CEPOL's Preliminary Work Programme 2018 as presented in the Single Programming document 2018-2020, available on CEPOL's website.

II. Scope of the grant

The call aims to contribute to the European law enforcement cooperation through learning that meets the highest level of international excellence. This will be achieved via awarding a research grant for conducting a research project relevant for training and education of law enforcement officials of the European Union.

The grant will be awarded for the purpose to conduct research on the topic recommended by the Management Board. It will be paid as a lump sum. The grant funds shall cover all necessary expenses for conducting the research and achieving the expected results, including field work, equipment, travel, and reporting.

The CEPOL Research Grant Relevant for Education and Training can be awarded to single applicants or a research consortium.

III. General procedure for the call

The call for applications for the CEPOL Grant for Research Relevant for Education and Training will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the CEPOL website. The call will be based on a Decision of the Executive Director detailing the eligibility, selection and award criteria and describing the topic and objective of the

research project, as well as the requirements for deliverables and conditions for application.

Applications will be invited from universities and research institutions which are based in the European Union and can demonstrate to have conducted international research projects in the area of law enforcement for at least 5 years.

Applications will be evaluated by an evaluation committee appointed by the Executive Director. As part of the evaluation by independent experts, a panel review will recommend one ranked list for the proposals under evaluation.

The total budget earmarked for the financing of projects financed under the present Call for 2018 is EUR 50.000.

IV. Timeline

- Decision by the Management Board **xx May 2017**.
- Publication of the call by **31 August 2017**.
- Grant applications are to be dispatched or delivered in hand by the **31 October 2017**.
- Evaluation will be conducted by the **30 November 2017**.

Grants will be awarded by **23 December 2017**.